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■ PELHAM SUMMERFEST: Attendance down Saturday for Fonthill event that got off to a solid start

Spirits up at 'Drizzlefest'



GREG FURMINGER/STAFF PHOTO

You didn't have to weave your way through Pelham Summerfest crowds Saturday, but you did have to dodge umbrellas.

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

A steady rainfall at a weekend festival has its advantages.

"There's less crowds, this is way better," said Sherri McQueen, as her son was taking a turn using a firefighter's hose and daughter and husband were fetching french fries on what had been expected to be the busiest day of Pelham Summerfest.

"We have a change of clothes in the backpack," said the mom who planned to stick around the festival for dinner.

Although attendance was clearly down at the Fonthill event Saturday, the spirits of Randy Allen and his family weren't.

They watched the rainclouds most of the morning hoping they'd part. They didn't.

"We said if it's one o'clock and it's raining, we're still going down," he said while

holding a big umbrella.

"Fonthill does a good job (putting on Summerfest) — they have lots of volunteers — and we're here to support them regardless."

The rain, he also noted, did come with advantages.

"It made it easy to walk. You didn't have to fight through crowds. But I feel sorry for the vendors."

Things were better Thursday and Friday night for sellers.

According to the town's head counts, about 6,500 people showed up opening night and about 7,000 on Friday, said Mayor Dave Augustyn.

"Everybody's just here to have fun and have a good time with family and friends," he said, noting the larger turnout on Summerfest's first Country Night, which had people dancing in the street until late hours.

See SUMMERFEST on Page 2

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UPFRONT

■ SUMMERFEST

Thursday a great night for art vendors

From Page 1

"As in previous years, it's been packed in here (the first two days), they were dancing — it's just like a big community party."

The four-day event cost the municipality only \$15,000 plus in-kind services, and is supported mainly by the business community and other sponsors, said Augustyn, who at one point tweeted to his Twitter followers #Drizzlefest.

Artist Patricia Paquin was hoping for better weather.

But as long as there was no wind to blow around her tent and artwork — there wasn't — she could live with the rain.

"I've sold every day — even

today," said the Niagara-on-the-Lake woman.

Thursday evening's kickoff which featured the opening of the four-day juried art show also had the regular Thursday night bandshell concert series present Bee Gees tribute act Night Fever.

"Thursday night was bedlam here. It was great," Paquin said of the huge turnout. "Thursday was the best for selling."

Despite the rain putting a damper on things — including for jewelry vendors and food servers — kids activities went ahead as planned — minus inflatables — such as face painting, a Reptile King-

dom exhibit, Mad Science, a wet paddle lagoon and Touch-a-Truck display.

Musical entertainment also remained on schedule.

On Sunday morning a modified kids zone was operating with inflatables, plus there was a family fun ride and walk through downtown Fonthill and along the Steve Bauer Trail.

A big \$5 breakfast helped to wind down the festival, and drew many families to Peace Park, where the mood under cloudy skies was far more relaxed than opening night.

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PHOTOS BY GREG FURMINGER/
QMI AGENCY/MACARA

Wainfleet acrylics artist Tabitha Stephens participates in her first outdoor show, at Pelham Summerfest.



The face painting at Pelham Summerfest was outstanding, as shown on the face of eight-year-old Layla Allen.



Too Much of Jon guitarists Chris Saylor, left, and Dan Lostracco entertain on Pelham St. between musical acts.



A stiltwalker amuses kids with his balloon creations over the weekend at Pelham's Summerfest.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **PELHAM:** Lifeguard pulled three-year-old out of pool, performed CPR

She saved a child's life

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

It took only seconds for the little boy to slip under the knee-deep water.

At first, lifeguard Alyssa Rosman thought the toddler was just playing. She quickly realized she was in the middle of a life-or-death situation.

"He wasn't coming up for air," said Rosman, 21, of Port Colborne.

She ran into the massive outdoor pool at Bissell's Hideaway in Pelham, scooped the child out of the water and within moments was going through the lifesaving routine she has practised so many times.

"I did one round of compressions and he spit out the water and started crying," Rosman said.

The scene around her was a bit chaotic.

The boy's six-year-old brother was there, but his parents weren't around. Others who witnessed the CPR procedures found it to be too much, and were in tears.

Rosman remained calm.

"You're not really thinking about it at that point. You're just happy he's breathing. It was a relief," she said.

By the time the Pelham fire department and Niagara EMS workers arrived a few minutes later, the boy was alert and back in the care of his parents, who had briefly left the pool area while their children played.

Though he was taken to hospital for precautionary reasons, the three-year-old fully recovered.

Rosman, who has worked at the Meier Rd. resort for the past three years, was honoured at a recent Pelham town council meeting for her efforts.

"Most people don't realize how well (lifeguards) perform in those situa-

tions," Pelham fire Chief Bob Lym-burner said. "I've been to incidents where professionals in other fields can't get it together. The person that can step up and do what she did is truly a professional. Being trained and being able to do it are two different things."

"To me, I was just doing my job," Rosman said.

"That's what I've been training for all these years."

Bissell's owner Ed Miklavic said Rosman did exactly what she was supposed to.

"It does happen sometimes that (lifeguards) could freeze. They're young kids, and sometimes it's their first major incident that could happen to them, so it's very impressive when they step up like that," he said.

Bissell's employs about 20 lifeguards during the season and has as many as 10 on patrol around its 0.4 hectare pool. Miklavic said there has never been a drowning in the park's 40-year history.

Rosman, a microbiology and immunology student at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, said the incident should be a lesson for parents.

"We're there, but when the pool is full with other people we can't see everyone at the second something happens," she said. Rosman figures the toddler was under the water for less than 30 seconds, but said it doesn't take long for a child to go unconscious.

"It's important the parents are watching too, because it could have all been prevented," she said.

The family involved in the near-drowning asked that their names not be released and haven't talked publicly about the incident.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO



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COMMENT

Potential multifaceted community centre synopsis

After my column last week, I wanted to give you an overall synopsis regarding recreational and community centre needs, wants and costs and the potential of a multifaceted community centre.

You will recall that the Town hired LeisurePlan International last summer to develop a market analysis, business case study, and facilities review. After a residence survey, detailed analysis and a comparison to industry standards, LeisurePlan recommended in January that the town:

- replace the existing single-pad with a new arena facility within the next five years;
- design a new twin-pad facility and phase the construction — build one ice pad first (contingent on capital financing) and construct the second pad after 2023/24 (should the sustaining demand develop);
- provide a multi-purpose facility to

accommodate demand for participation in fitness activities, walking/running on an indoor track, and gymnasium sports;

- provide multi-purpose program space;
- not provide an indoor pool due to lack of demand and associated costs;

In April, LeisurePlan presented various options and recommended that the town build "integrated facilities" — a multi-purpose community complex — for \$22 million to \$27 million. (The firm estimated that an integrated facility would cost up to \$1.1 million less in capital costs than two, stand-alone facilities.)

In May, LeisurePlan projected net operating costs for an integrated facility at \$63,715 in the first year, and declining slightly each year for the next four years. As a comparison, the existing arena's net operating costs were \$64,366 in 2011, \$75,477 in 2012 and \$92,486 in 2013.

Because the estimated costs to operate a multifaceted community centre is less than the existing arena's operating loss, town staff recommended that the town could fund the costs to operate a new integrated facility.

In essence, the recommendations say that the community would provide sustaining demand; if we can afford to construct a new multi-faceted community centre, we could afford to operate it.

So, how do we try to make the capital costs for a potential new community centre affordable for local, municipal taxpayers? We need to fundraise and attain financial support from the federal and provincial governments.

To do that we will need more detailed plans (design drawings) and tighter cost estimates. That's why town council recently appointed a community design committee members — with representatives from rec-

reation user groups, youth, seniors, artists, service clubs and the community-at-large. We have also asked for quotes from four, short-listed design firms so we can pick an architect.

As I wrote about last week, based on LeisurePlan's reports, the condition of the existing arena, and imminent developments, town council recently decided to begin design of a potential multi-faceted community centre on the town-owned lands in the east Fonthill area.

We will continue to keep you informed so we can work together about this very important matter for Pelham.

You may contact Mayor Dave at majordave@pelham.ca with questions or to suggest future topics. Check out links for documents and past columns at www.pelhammayor.com. blogspot.com.

Shipwrecks — Jose Marti

SKIP GILLHAM
 For Pelham News

The Cuban freighter *Jose Marti* had just been built when it first came through the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1977.

The 149.1-metre-long cargo carrier had been completed in Denmark and was used in the sugar trade.

It was sold within Cuba in 1990 and renamed *Yatino*. This vessel brought sugar to Toronto in April 1991.

It was sailing under a fifth name of *Agate Islands* when it was lost on Feb. 25, 2007. The ship had been sold for scrapping in India and was under tow of the tug *Rig Deliverer* when it was lost in the Indian Ocean about 120 kilometres east of Durban, South Africa. No one was on board at the time.



PHOTO: RON BEAUPRE COLLECTION

ONLINE



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PELHAM NEWS DATEBOOK

JULY 24

BIRDS OF PREY

The Canadian Raptor Conservancy educates all ages about raptors and their important role within nature. Don't miss out on this awesome live bird presentation at 1 p.m. at Fonthill's Peace Park (Pelham Public Library's Festival Room in case of rain). Registration required. Call 905-892-6443.

JULY 28

BIRDING: NORTHERN PERU

John Black and Marcie Jacklin will give a presentation at Pelham Public Library on their recent birding trip. They managed to see 500+ plus species of birds in 13 days. Black produced Niagara Birds with Kayo Roy, and is past-president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Jacklin has contributed several articles to the book Niagara Birds. Starts 6:30 p.m.; cost \$3. Register ahead at 905-892-6443.

JULY 29

HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES

Linda Crago of Tree and Twig Heirloom Vegetable Farm will talk about this timely topic, including purple carrots and yellow tomatoes, as well as about the concept of community-supported agriculture, 6:30 p.m. at Pelham Public Library. Cost \$2. Register ahead at 905-892-6443.

JULY 30

FREELANCE MUSIC DOWNLOADS

Learn how to easily search, download or stream music to various devices from Pelham Public Library's Freerag program. Bring your device and library card. A few laptops will be available on site. Free. 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Register ahead.

AUGUST 9

MEDITATION

at Pelham Public Library: Marcia leads you through different types of meditations, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Great for beginners and people who have meditated before. Bring a pen and notebook. Cost \$3; register ahead at 905-892-6443.

ONGOING

ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

Have fun and improve your

communication skills, for free at any or all of the Rose City Toastmasters summer meetings: July 10 to 23 and Aug. 7 and 20, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena, 501 King St., Welland. Visit welland.toastmastersclubs.org.

SECOND CAREER

information sessions at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, on Fridays July 11, 18, 25; 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org to reserve a spot.

SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since 1982 for mature singles who meet and mingle at Iggy's Pub, 115 Hwy. 20, Fonthill, every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Offers members a monthly calendar of social activities. Further information, call Lynne at 905-788-0359.

BEGINNER BRIDGE

Learn as you play, at Pelham Public Library, Ed Hills, a certified instructor with the ACBL and ABTA, will walk you through your first steps. Mondays July 14, 28, Aug. 11, 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Register ahead at www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca or 905-892-6443.

APPLE DUMPLING CAFE

Saturdays 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Division St., Welland, market square entrance. Hot apple dumplings with sausage, plain and raisin scones, clotted cream and jam, tea and coffee. All proceeds to the work of the church.

OPEN ART NIGHTS

Join us every Tuesday from 8 p.m. at 75 West Main St. Open to all adults. Bring your own equipment, supplies, and materials and enjoy a social environment with other creative people. Open to painters, illustrators, photographers, or all other creative forms. For more information, contact deadpostar70@gmail.com or check out bktv.ca.

INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

Niagara meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for anyone experiencing primary infertility. Call or text 289-821-4606 or e-mail infertilityniagara@hotmail.com for location or more information.

WELLAND RIVER KEEPERS

meets the third Tuesday of every month at Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office, 250 Thorold Rd. W., Welland, third floor, 7 p.m. More info, 905-735-9861.

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LOCAL NEWS

Library Notes

Summerfest has come and gone with lots of fun for everyone. The next event to look forward to is Civic Holiday weekend.

Pelham Public Library will be closed as usual on the holiday Monday, Aug. 4.

Prior to then, TGIF Crafting

Drop-ins are Fridays, July 25 and Aug. 1, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$2, and no pre-registration is needed. A Gadget Clinic is July 26 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please register, pay ahead (\$5 per half-hour) and outline the problem you are having with your device.

Absolute Beginner Bridge

— or as we prefer to call it: Easybridge — continues on July 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. Intermediate Bridge occurs Wednesday, Aug. 6 (drop in at 1 p.m., with a partner if possible, \$1 per session).

(Just a heads up: There is another Gadget Clinic coming up, on Aug. 9, and as well as a

meditation session on the same day.)

The week of July 28 to Aug. 2 also has several interesting adult programs. The Birding Northern Peru from the Amazon to the Pacific presentation will be given by John Black, past-president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, with Kay Roy of Niagara Birds and Marcel Jacklin, a biological sciences librarian at Brock University and contributor of several articles to *Pelham News*. The presentation takes place Monday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$3. Please pre-register.

On Tuesday, July 29, at 6:30 p.m., we welcome Linda CRAIG, who, as I'm sure you know, is a regular at Pelham Farmers' Market and has a local business called Tree and Twig Heirloom Vegetable Farm. Heirloom vegetables and the concept of community-supported Agriculture will be her topics. Cost is \$2. Pre-registration is recommended.

Thanks to the generosity of the Pelham Art Festival, on Wednesday, July 30, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. there will be a Freeragel workshop. Freeragel is a music download service that provides wide access to thousands of artists and their music. Your library card allows

three song downloads per week, or three hours of streaming per day. The workshop will tell you how to search, download or stream music to a device of your choice. Bring your device and library card. A few laptops will be available. This session is free, but please pre-register.

Last, but by no means least — are you clearing out some books that you no longer want? We will be holding our regular summer book sale from Monday, Aug. 18, to Saturday, Aug. 23 — the book sale open whenever the library is open. We take most books, with the exception of textbooks and encyclopedias, so here is an opportunity to tidy up the basement or attic and do some good at the same time. Volunteers to sort and sell are always needed, so sign up at the circulation desk if you have a few hours to contribute.

And that's about all this time, except to direct the attention of all you local history buffs and former Lincoln and West Lincoln residents to a program on Grimsby Beach: Then and Now which will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 13. I'll return to that next time.

See you at the library.


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RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday July 29

Wednesday July 30

9:30 am - 10:30 am

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday July 29

Thursday July 31

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Aqua Zumba @ Pelham Community Pool

Monday July 28

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Wednesday July 30

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! - July 29 & 31

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Summer Programs - Aquatics & Summer Camps

Our Summer Programs have limited availability. Registration is still available for swimming lessons, Summer Day Camps, Playground Program, Specialty Camps: Bike Camp; Art Camp; Sports Camp; You're the Chef Camp. Registration forms are available at pelham.ca and at Town Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Pelham Farmers' Market - May 1 until October 30 - Pelham Town Square - July 17 - Market Bucks Winner: Emily Allan

Come out and meet your local market vendors and purchase food that is fresh, high in quality and the next best thing to harvesting it yourself. Every Thursday from May 1 to October 30, 4:30pm till dusk.

Free ((Wi-Fi)) available @ Peace Park in Fonthill. Be sure to check it out when attending any summer events or taking a stroll through the park!

Fenwick Commemorative Bricks



The Village of Fenwick celebrated its 160th Anniversary in June 2013. Now you have the opportunity to be a part of Fenwick's future. **Purchase a granite brick to be incorporated into the downtown Fenwick beautification project.** Standard, double, veteran's and cororate bricks are available. Visit pelham.ca for details or come in to Town Hall (20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill, L0S 1E0).

FUNDRAISER: Garage sale held to support Young Adults Cancer Canada

Finding solace after cancer

SHOP FOR THE BRAVE

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

She doesn't cringe. She doesn't frown. In fact, when the dreaded C-word is brought up, Samantha McCauley continues with a smile on her face. Some times, she'll even crack a joke. "The lifelong Welland-er will no longer let a little thing like cancer take the humour from her life. It's a lesson she learned after being diagnosed in fall 2011 with Hodgkin's lymphoma at the age of 24. It was a diagnosis that was understandably hard to swallow, but it was the journey that followed that took the greatest toll. McCauley was only a year out of uni-

versity, working a job she loved and three months into a new relationship. She had even begun planning to buy her first home. "All in all, my life was on exactly the track I always imagined it would be," says the now 26-year-old. "And then, overnight, everything ground to a halt." Heartbroken by the news, McCauley tried to put her relationship on hold, but boyfriend Adam Bonifco was determined to stay by her side. "It was difficult," he admits. "We had been dating not even three months. She thought maybe we should break up, but I decided to stick it out." It was both a scary and shocking diag-

nosis — one you wouldn't expect a 24-year-old to receive, he says. McCauley had to undergo six months of chemotherapy. It resulted in hair loss but, worse yet, utter exhaustion that left the usually bubbly woman a shell of her former self. "By the end of my treatment my life consisted almost solely of trips to the cancer centre and days spent on the couch in and watching blood tests of TV shows." Movies were one of the question — she simply couldn't stay awake through one. McCauley was surrounded by a loving support system. Her family, friends and boyfriend did everything they could to help her overcome the difficult hand she'd been dealt. Still, she felt alone. No one truly understood. It was the sinking feeling of isolation and it caused McCauley to feel as though she was struggling to keep her head above water. It was a feeling she would later learn is common among young adults with cancer. "Part of the problem was I wanted so badly to be strong for the people that I loved that I found myself internalizing my thoughts and feelings about everything that was happening," McCauley says. "With my family and friends, I always felt like I had to hold a bit back." She would walk into the hospital with her parents by her side and sit for treatment surrounded mainly by older patients well out of her age group. "They were all wonderful people, but they don't look at you like a peer," she says. "You are the elephant in the room."

At the Walker Family Cancer Centre, 47 of 5,200 unique patients treated from April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014, were under the age of 30. The centre does not treat children.

"It's not a large percentage, but it's still significant," says Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, Niagara Health System's director of medical oncology. Both Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, as well as testicular cancer, are most common in young adults. Cases of breast cancer, brain tumours and acute leukemia also occur, though not as often. Young adults coping with cancer are often forced to address anxiety, work, family, sexuality and fertility issues, Giesbrecht says, while adding relationships are also often impacted. "Some relationships change and some don't survive the experience." Despite her boyfriend providing endless support, McCauley felt there was no one her age she could turn to who had experienced what she was experiencing. Bonifco spent much of his time trying to just be there for the woman he loved. "You try to help and do whatever you can for her, but she needs to go through it herself," he says. McCauley convinced herself that all she had to do was get across the "chemo finish line." Then, everything would be fine. Normalcy would return. Her final treatment came and went, and she was ultimately declared cancer-free. But the disease was far from gone in her life. "It became clear that you can't just flip a switch and go back to your pre-cancer life or your pre-cancer self," she says. "All of those thoughts and feelings that I'd internalized didn't just magically go away because I was no longer getting toxic chemicals pumped into my veins on a biweekly basis."

Cancer was still the first thing McCauley thought about in the morning and the last thing on her mind before bed. Fear of relapsing was deep.

What: Fundraising garage sale for Young Adult Cancer Canada, an organization that provides support programs for young adults coping with cancer and their supporters. **When:** Saturday, Aug. 9, with a 7 a.m. start **Where:** 6 Karen Cres., Welland **To donate items to the sale, e-mail organizer Samantha McCauley at smccauley123@gmail.com.** **For more information, visit this show on the Brave Facebook page.**

Not knowing where to turn, she did what most people do when searching for the solution to a problem — she Googled it. That's when she discovered Young Adult Cancer Canada. The organization, which provides support and social programs for young adults coping with cancer, changed her life as rapidly as her diagnosis had. "There is something incredibly wonderful and nearly indescribable about being in a room full of people your own age who completely understand what it means and feels like to have cancer as a young adult," McCauley says. Sharing so openly taught her to cry, but more importantly, to laugh once again. Both Wellspring Niagara and the Canadian Cancer Society also provide support groups for young adults. Programs also exist to directly connect a cancer patient with someone their own age who has faced a similar diagnosis. "It's a great thing when patients support each other," Giesbrecht says. "It's not uncommon, she adds, for people reaching the end of their cancer journey to volunteer to connect with someone just beginning treatment or facing a new diagnosis.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **POLICING:** Vigilant family pet helps police collar criminal

Crime-fighting canine nabs intruder

BILL SAWCHUK

QMI Agency Niagara

A persistent family pet helped collar an intruder and foil a robbery in rural west St. Catharines last Tuesday.

The dog, a five-year-old German shepherd named Kaylee, led police to a bandit who had been hiding in a wooded area at the rear of the home.

"Without the family dog, we wouldn't have found the guy — without a doubt," said Const. Derek Watson of the Niagara Regional Police. "They were out at a funeral."

After being alerted by an alarm company, an officer arrived at the home at about 2 p.m. to find the rear patio door open and the dog sitting outside in the backyard, Watson said.

As the officer waited for

backup before searching the home, the dog was barking and growling. The officer said to the dog, "Where is he? Where did he go?"

The dog led the officer to the back of the property, but the officer didn't see or hear anyone.

"(Kaylee) is trained not to leave the property," said Jeff Inglis, the homeowner who was attending a funeral in Dunnville at the time of the break-in. "She goes to the property line and freezes, unless she has permission. So I think she stopped because she was waiting for permission."

The officer went back to the home, but the dog remained agitated and began barking and growling again.

The officer and the dog returned to the back of the prop-

erty and the officer spotted the suspect from a distance, walking through a vineyard and visibility out of breath.

The suspect was arrested. Police say a search of the suspect's backpack found break-in tools and jewelry that had been stolen from the home.

"We are really happy with Kaylee," Inglis said. "I'm glad we caught him. She is very protective. She's a great dog. The officer joked the police should take her and train her."

Inglis believes the thief

entered the home at the back and was standing in the kitchen when the dog started him.

The thief ran to the bedroom, shut the doors, took jewelry and a laptop, then left through the bedroom window, which was found open.

A search of the woods by police recovered the family laptop. The canine unit led police to the suspect's bicycle on St. Paul St.

Inglis said his car keys are the only thing still missing. He said he was going to get a metal

detector to see if he could find them.

"It was an awful, sick kind of feeling knowing somebody got in," Inglis said.

"Your privacy is totally violated."

As for special treats for his crime-fighting canine, Inglis said the officer returned later

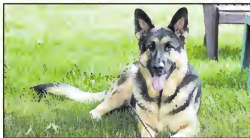
in the day with a large marrow bone for Kaylee.

"She gets treats all the time," Inglis said with a laugh.

Jean Lavallee, 39, of St. Catharines, is charged with break and enter.

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BOB TYNCHESYN/STAFF PHOTO

Kaylee, a German shepherd, helped catch a burglar at the Inglis home in west St. Catharines.

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■ **SHORT HILLS:** Messages directed at Ministry of Natural Resources

Politicians call again for end to deer hunts

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region is again calling for an end to deer hunts in Short Hills Provincial Park.

Citing concerns for public safety, regional councillors on the corporate services commit-

tee voted Wednesday to send a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources requesting it not allow future hunts.

The region has in the past written letters to the premier and minister of natural resources stating its opposition to hunting in the 680-hectare park.

Through a long-standing treaty agreement, Haudenosaunee aboriginal hunters have been allowed into the closed park to kill deer with bows and arrows. A first hunt in the park took place over four days in January 2013 and a second was held for eight days in November 2013.

The committee decision came after a presentation from Short Hills Wildlife Alliance members Robin Zavitz and Sheila Krokorian, who have opposed the hunt from the start.

Zavitz, whose Roland Rd. property abuts the park, reiterated safety concerns she expressed to councillors in May: native hunters on her property, despite the fact the MNR created a no-hunt buffer zone between the park and private property, a wounded deer found on a neighbour's land, and an arrow lodged in a tree on her property she said was not there prior to the November hunts.

The MNR said in May an investigation by it and Niagara Regional Police found no evidence of hunters trespassing on private property.

"The only thing that I can see that would be safe, is to stop the hunt in Short Hills park. And I want to ask council if they will do that with whatever persuasion, clout, legal means that you have available," Krokorian said.

"We have shown that the MNR cannot secure the park, cannot control the activities of the hunters and cannot provide for public safety."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn, the co-chair of the corporate services committee, noted the MNR beefed up security at

the park on the hunt days in November.

"My read of it... is that it didn't work," he said.

He tabled a motion to forward wildlife alliance documents to the MNR and to ask the ministry to put an end to the hunts because of safety concerns.

"I think the evidence is compelling that the Ministry of Natural Resources cannot guarantee public safety. It's just impossible," Augustyn said.

St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms agreed.

"For me, it's simply a matter of public safety. There does not appear to be any way to make this hunt safe," he said.

After Timms spoke, Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey, seconded by Lincoln Mayor Bill Hodgson, moved to limit talk on the motion by asking the chair to put it to a vote.

"Are you serious?" St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski said when the majority of the committee agreed with Badawey. "That is brutal."

"Keep the soapbox for the lobby," Badawey said to Petrowski.

Committee members passed Augustyn's motion. It now needs approval of council-of-the-whole.

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A deer in Short Hills Provincial Park, in this file photo.

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■ CANADIAN FORCES: Training exercise Aug. 16 to 24

Soldiers to invade Niagara

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

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More than 2,500 soldiers are expected to descend on Niagara from Aug. 16 to 24 for the Canadian Armed Forces' exercise Stalwart Guardian.

The annual exercise is used to train soldiers within the 4th Canadian Division Primary Reserve, including those from southern, central and northern Ontario.

Though traditionally held on a military base, this year's exercise is scheduled to take place at different Niagara locations, Capt. Jordan Layden of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry told Port Colborne city council last week.

"The region was chosen because it provides not only a realistic training environment, but also one that comes with unfamiliar and challenging terrain, he said.

"We've seen the army base year after year. It gets too easy. We need a complex terrain to better train our soldiers."

Rural areas in St. Catharines, Thorold, Smithville and "Port Colborne especially" are all scheduled to be included, Layden said.

The exercise, which includes artillery and armed vehicles, will see groups ranging in size from 30 to 300 uniformed

soldiers working together in all trades including combat arms, combat support arms and support.

"There will be a lot of big trucks and heavy equipment," Layden said.

It will mean potential road closures, increased vehicle traffic and likely an increase in volume at local emergency rooms, he said, as injuries during training are not uncommon.

There might also be an increase in noise due to vehicles and simulated gunfire, but there will be no simulated explosions in this exercise.

Layden wanted to alert the public that the exercise will continue both day and night.

"We do move in all hours of the day," he said, but the impact on local residents will be kept as minimal as possible.

Contact will be maintained between the Canadian Forces, local municipalities and emergency officials to ensure everyone is aware where and when training is taking place.

Choosing Niagara also affords the military the opportunity to interact with the public.

"That's something the army has strived for in the last few years," Layden said. "We are the military for the people."

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■ ODDITY

Stink leads to Effingham St. closure

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

It smelled fishy, so he called in the cops.
A cyclist pedalling on Effing-

ham St. in Pelham last Thursday at about 5 p.m. had his senses assaulted from the wicked

stench emanating from a garbage bag in a ditch.

"A cyclist had ridden by, detected a very bad stench, thought it might be human remains, so, of course, out of an abundance of caution, we treated it as such," said Const. Greg Beaulieu, who was acting sergeant at the Niagara Regional Police detachment in Welland Thursday.

Police closed a section of Effingham between Foss and Sumbler roads as

detectives and investigators from the forensic unit were called in from St. Catharines, Beaulieu said.

"We discovered it was a bag of fish heads thrown in the ditch," he said, noting there were thousands of maggots eating the remains.

"It stunk to high heaven."
Beaulieu said the scene was cleared at about 6:30 p.m.

He did not know what was done with the bag of fish heads.

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LYME DISEASE: WHAT MAKES IT TICK?

As temperatures begin to finally rise across southern Ontario after several weeks of gloomy weather, many Niagara residents are eager to bring out their summer wardrobe.

However, it doesn't take long before we quickly remember that along with the summer heat comes the return of mosquitoes, spiders, and ticks. In Ontario, most residents are well informed about the illnesses mosquitoes can spread and ways of protecting yourself. But how informed are we about ticks?

There are many different species of ticks; however, the one that is of concern is the blacklegged tick, also known as the deer tick. This sesame seed sized tick can be the host to the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease, which, if untreated, can result in arthritis, heart problems, and various nervous system problems. The American brown dog tick is approximately half a centimeter and has not been shown to carry Lyme disease.

The Niagara region has a high concentration of ticks, especially in the areas surrounding Lake Erie. The Niagara Health Department recommends wearing pants and long sleeved shirts when walking in wooded areas to minimize the chances of a tick bite.

If you notice a tick has attached to your skin, it should be removed immediately by grabbing the head with a pair of tweezers and pulling straight up. Do not try to burn the tick off of the skin using a match or lighter. The area should be then be washed with soap and water. If you are unable to remove the entire tick, you should give your doctor a call and they can remove it for you. The tick can be brought to the health department for analysis to see if it was infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Ticks often pick up the bacteria that cause Lyme disease while feeding on infected rodents. However, it should be noted that most ticks are not carriers.

The majority of people who are bitten by ticks do not develop Lyme disease, however if you notice a red bulls-eye rash on the skin, develop a fever, headache or muscle and joint pains, you should seek medical attention. The symptoms typically develop within 1 to 2 weeks of a bite. Lyme disease can often be cured with antibiotics if treatment is started early.

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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Welland hospital has openings

Volunteers needed for NHS emergency departments

QMI Agency Niagara

Volunteers are being welcomed at Welland hospital's emergency department.

Niagara Health System says it also has openings for volunteers in its emergency departments at Niagara Falls and St. Catharines hospitals.

"Volunteering at the hospital offers a rewarding experience and meaningful work for community members who want to get involved and have a real impact creating a positive experience for our patients," says volunteer services co-ordinator Debbie

Anderson.

The aim of the emergency department volunteer program, launched two years ago, is to increase patient satisfaction with NHS services.

"Volunteers assist in the waiting room by answering questions, addressing

concerns and being a liaison with staff. They also care for patients at the bedside by offering a variety of comfort measures and support," Anderson says in a news release.

NHS is looking for people with good communication

and problem-solving skills, and a kind nature to support patients, families and staff.

The health system's team of volunteers comprises a variety of individuals, including some working or retired (some from health care) as well as students in post-secondary pro-

grams preparing for careers in the field.

Volunteers will begin in September and receive comprehensive training. Interested applicants have until Aug. 1 to apply at www.niagarahealth.on.ca/en/volunteer-resources.



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■ NIAGARA REGION

Help Wanted: EMS is hiring

ROB HOULE
QM1 Agency Niagara

Niagara Region is set to hang a Help Wanted sign for 18 additional Niagara Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Public health and social services committee members agreed last Tuesday to spend \$464,211 by the end of September to allow Niagara EMS to hire 16 full-time staffers and two full-time supervisors, the equivalent of two 24-hour ambulance crews.

The money to pay for those hires until the end of the year will come from the land ambulance severance reserve fund, which currently has \$4.6 million in it, medical officer of health Valerie Jaeger said. The yearly cost for those hires is slightly more than \$1.1 million and will need to be budgeted for 2015.

In addition to the hires in September, the report to the public health committee asked that staff be directed to begin budgetary planning to add an additional 16 paramedics, two supervisors and two logistical/regulatory staffers in the fourth quarter of 2015.

If agreed to by council on July 24, the total yearly price tag beginning in 2016 for the additional 38 EMS staffers would be \$4.6 million.

Jaeger said funding for land ambulance service is split 50-50 between the region and province. Because the province bases its fund-

ing calculations on year-prior region budgets, there will be a one-year lag in receiving dollars for the new hires.

That means if the hirings receive final approval, the region will not recoup anything from the province this year but will see an increase of \$232,106 in 2015, \$1.4 million in 2016 and the full cost share of \$2.3 million in 2017.

The report to committee notes the additional employees are needed to meet increased 911 calls requiring ambulance service. The report says the increase in call volume can partly be attributed to population growth, an aging population and hospital restructuring, in which emergency departments in Port Colborne and Fort Erie were closed.

Jaeger said the new EMS staffers will cut back on forced overtime, shift overruns and missed meal breaks.

"Because we must respond to every 911 call, we do not have a choice as to whether we send an ambulance.... What happens is that we send people who are overtime people."

She said the cost of overtime is not covered on a cost share with the province.

"The ministry funds us 50-50 on the council-approved budget, it does not fund us on unexpected overtime which we incur at the end of the year. Those become 100% council-funded," she said.



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